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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

Continued United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia

Thirteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee has considered the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/48/78) regarding the continued United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.
2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report, the Centre for Human Rights has elaborated a programme of activities within the framework of the mandate established by Economic and Social Council decision 1993/254 relating to the continued United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia.
3. The Advisory Committee recalls that in its report (A/48/7/Add.4) of 17 December 1993, it had recommended that at that stage the General Assembly approve an amount of \$550,000 under Section 21 of the programme budget for the first six months of the biennium 1994-1995 for financing of activities relating to Economic and Social Council decision 1993/254, for the continued United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia; this amount was to be approved pending submission of a report which would include details on the Special Representative's post, as well as justification for the number and level of other posts in terms of functions and workload.
4. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report that the programme of human rights activities will be financed mainly under the Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia; an appeal for funds has resulted in some \$800,000 being received so far. It is not clear to the Committee if additional funds are anticipated since the programme of activities, as outlined in the report, could not be sustained within the existing resources of \$800,000 available in the Trust Fund. It is not clear to

the Advisory Committee to what extent use has been made of the resources in the other existing trust funds for Cambodia. The full cost of the programme of activities envisaged has not been identified.

5. The Secretary-General's report provides information on the programme of human rights activities in Cambodia (paras. 5-57) and estimated costs of \$1,834,100 for 1994-1995 for the support of the programme. As shown in paragraph 67 of the report, the requirements for the biennium are estimated at \$2,384,100. The requirements are broken down as follows: posts (\$554,900); general temporary assistance (\$10,000); consultants (\$40,400); travel of the Special Representative (\$61,600); travel of staff (\$96,100); general operating expenses (\$247,000), which comprise rent and maintenance of premises, utilities, communications, vehicles and miscellaneous services; supplies and materials (\$40,000); and acquisition of furniture and equipment (\$59,800).

6. The Advisory Committee does not believe that the justification of posts and other requirements as previously raised by the Committee has been adequately addressed in the Secretary-General's report. In this connection, the Advisory Committee also believes that at this stage, with Trust Fund resources totalling only some \$800,000, requirements of \$2,384,100 to carry out the programme of activities in support of the programme seem rather excessive. The Committee therefore believes that a phased-in approach for setting up the support infrastructure would seem more appropriate and prudent. The Committee recommends that the operational programme be charged a fair share of support costs.

7. The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that there appears to be no proper justification provided for the amount of travel by staff, particularly outside of Cambodia. The Secretary-General should continue to explore the possibility of whether some of the items such as premises and office space could be provided by the host country. The Advisory Committee notes that the report does not confirm whether the possibility of acquiring any surplus equipment and spares from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has been thoroughly explored.

8. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Special Representative receives no emoluments from the United Nations although he is provided travel and related facilities. The Advisory Committee believes that there is a need to define clearly the interrelationship between the Special Representative, the field offices for human rights in Cambodia, the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

9. With regard to staffing, the Advisory Committee believes that at this stage the numbers and levels of staff proposed in the Secretary-General's report (8 Professionals and 20 General Service) seem excessive.

10. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 25 of the report that the Centre for Human Rights aims to establish a network of human rights officers in the 21 Cambodian provinces. The Committee trusts that such an undertaking will be within the resources available to the programme and that all support activities will be commensurate with the funding available in the Trust Fund.

11. In view of the comments and observations of the Advisory Committee in the paragraphs above, the Committee recommends that an amount of \$1.5 million (inclusive of the \$550,000 already approved) be approved for the financing of human rights activities in Cambodia, under section 21 of the programme budget for 1994-1995.
